

# Canine Bulletin

Nebraska Task Force - 1

July 2003

## **The Yellow Pup**

*Submitted by: Elaine Sawtell*

It's been 12 years since I had a pup. I wanted a black male. He's yellow.

I always figured my next pup would be a Cattle Dog. I love their quick minds, their loyalty, steadiness and focus, and the fact that not everyone has one!

However, in 12 years a lot of things change. Grandkids and a son-in-law that loves labs. The thought of having a dog that everyone likes and can go places and do things and be accepted just because of who he is led me to finally be like everyone else and get a lab. He's yellow.

In the past my pups have done Schutzhund, police patrol work, obedience, tracking, wilderness search. Now disaster is what I do. So the yellow pup has started that direction. He's off to a good start. He had been in 12 states and traveled over 4,000 miles before he was 4 months old. He's stayed in fire stations, motels, at a horse farm, in converted slave quarters, and in the van all night.

Seems to me if you are training a dog for search, that is what you imprint...search. Any of us can teach a dog obedience. That's important but not what I want imprinted in my search dog. At 8 weeks he started learning that the most fun thing in the world was to Find A Person. Didn't have to have a toy. Didn't have to have food. You didn't have to see them leave. But when you hit human scent, That's what Life's All About!

He's 4-1/2 months now. He loves finding people. He loves playing on rubble and climbing on things. He likes other dogs, but people and toys and retrieving are what he likes most. He loves swimming and playing in his pool. People like him...he's yellow.

Training is cut back now. Part of our family has left for service overseas. Family comes first. But the imprint is there. He needs time to grow and learn more about the world and develop. He's learned (thanks to Robert Milner's book) about steadiness. He's pushing to do obedience. If I had my way, he would be a lot older before we started heeling. He loves learning, so we're on our way.

Will he become a FEMA Disaster Search Canine? I don't know or care. He seems to be not only raising his paw to do the work but jumping up and down with both paws in the air. But one thing he already is and will be...my yellow pup.



Elaine's new yellow pup - Kachi

## **NBC Nightly News**

*Submitted by: John Huff*

Lincoln Fire & Rescue has received a video tape copy of NDSDF's recent appearance on NBC's Nightly News. The video is approximately 2 1/2 minutes long. If anyone is interested in seeing this clip or having a copy please call Susie at (402) 441-8361 or email her at: [ssongster@ci.lincoln.ne.us](mailto:ssongster@ci.lincoln.ne.us)

## **Thank You Ditto**

Ditto has hung up her leash. NETF1 honors the dedication and commitment she has provided throughout her 10 years of service.



## Two Good Books

Submitted by: Elaine Sawtell

I admit it. I have trouble reading dog books. I hear about a good one, I go buy it and end up giving it to a friend to read for me. Sometimes I've even been given a book and it soon gravitates to the black hole where someday I want to read that it resides.

Recently, however, I have actually read two very good books. Not only that, but I've pushed them on friends to read. Time does not permit me to detail all the things I like about these books. Not since Diane Bauman's *Beyond Basic Obedience* (slow down and shut up!) have I appreciated writing this much. I found myself in both cases saying, Yeah, I wish I'd said that, or, Yeah, that's what I've been doing for years, or, as when sitting in church and the sermon is PERFECT for someone else, so-and-so needs to read this!

*Retriever Training: A Back-to-Basics Approach*, by Robert Milner, published by Ducks Unlimited, is just what it says...a back-to-basics training regimen for a working dog.

In a very readable style, Mr. Milner's chapters include such intriguing and practical titles as Five Key Points for Training Retrievers, the Top Ten Practices that Interfere with Training, Learning to Speak "Dog," Inherited Versus Learned Behavior, How Pup Learns, Obedience as a Way of Life, and more.

Mr. Milner's paragraph on Shaping the Emotional State without Prozac I believe applies to a good disaster search dog, as well as a gun dog. In brief, he says, "Pavlovian conditioning works against developing a steady dog by rewarding the emotional state of being wired

up... We should be using Pavlovian conditioning to make Pup calmer and steadier. It is simply a matter of changing the timing. To train Pup to be calm, simply wait until he's calmed down before sending him on the retrieve... You are thus rewarding the proper emotional state of calmness. That's how you get a calm but hard-working dog."

I can tell you that works for my pup!

This book emphasizes the importance of thought, developing and executing a training plan, and being fair to the dog. "Don't train what you have to untrain later" makes life a lot easier for you and your dog.

*Bones Would Rain from the Sky*, by Suzanne Clothier, Warner Books, is subtitled, *Deepening Our Relationships with Dogs*. I have trouble even trying to describe what this book covers; yet Ms. Clothier manages to open a communication channel with our canine friends and help us

understand some things from the canine perspective, without being overly anthropomorphic.

Dog trainers are opinionated people. I don't agree with everything in either of these books. I particularly have trouble with Ms. Clothier's dog is God philosophy. I believe dogs are a gift from God, a part of His Creation unlike any other animal. We can learn much from our dogs about forgiveness and loyalty and even that obedience brings happiness. A dog in heel position with his eyes on his Master is to me an analogy of where we should be in relation to our Heavenly Master.

Both these books are available through Amazon or I MIGHT lend you my copy!



*"That's how you  
get a calm but  
hard-working  
dog."*

## NETF1 to Sponsor FEMA – Approved Canine Evaluation in 2004

Submitted by: Rick Klein

Nebraska Task Force 1 has applied to sponsor one of four Central Division FEMA-approved canine certification evaluations. The dates for NETF1 are April 16-18, 2004 and will be held in the Lincoln, NE area. The evaluation will include both Type I and Type II certifications. We will be evaluating potential sites and

locations to conduct the various requirements associated with the two certification levels. We will be moving ahead with plans for this certification evaluation and will enlist the assistance of our task force canine team members to make it a success. Please watch for additional information as it comes available.

## Training Request to Attend

Submitted by: Rick Klein

As our budget has expanded for 2003-04, so has our accountability for how US&R cooperative agreement funds are utilized. We have set aside a moderate amount for our canine teams to travel for monthly NETF1 task force training that is conducted in Springfield, MO and Lincoln, NE and for FEMA certification evaluations, but of course there are other training opportunities that arise that are a benefit to our personnel and their canines. For travel to training that is not considered NETF1 sponsored training, a Request to Attend form must be prepared and forwarded to the US&R coordinator for review and approval prior to confirming any travel arrangements. Examples of when the form is required would include attending a FEMA sponsored evaluation, attending training sponsored by another task force, or specialized training that is appropriate for US&R operations. The form directs you to provide information about the course you are interested in and report the estimated expenses for the travel, lodging, meals, and registration. During review of the request to attend, the US&R coordinator will check available funding and discuss with the program manager the potential of the requested training to the member and the task force. This process helps us to monitor our funding levels and helps us to share these types of opportunities with as many task force personnel as possible. While we may not be able to approve every request to attend due to our budget, we will try to accommodate as many training opportunities as possible. The Request to Attend form can be located in the forms link on the NETF1 secure website.



## Monthly Training Log

Submitted by: Rick Klein

The monthly training log can be located on our secure US&R website under forms, Training Roster. Remember to mail them in every month to Susie Songster.



Mail your training logs to:  
Susie Songster  
1801 "Q" Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

## How Do I Submit Items for the Canine Bulletin?

Mail, E-mail, or Fax items to:

Julie Marget  
Lincoln Fire & Rescue  
1801 Q Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
jmarget@ci.lincoln.ne.us  
Fax: 441-8292  
Phone: 441-8352

Address/  
Phone #  
Changes Also  
contact Julie



### US&R Canine Evaluation Schedule

#### 2002

CO-TF1	Canine	Type I & II	May 30 - June 1
CA-TF2	Canine	Type II	June 21 - 22
WA-TF1	Canine	Type I & II	July 25 - 27
CA-TF5	Canine	Type I & II	Sept 20 - 21
IN-TF1	Canine	Type I & II	Oct 20 - 21
FL-TF1	Canine	Type II	Nov 15 - 16
CA-TF8	Canine	Type I & II	Dec 06 - 07

#### 2003

TN-TF1	Canine	Type I & II	Jan 16 - 18
VA-TF2	Canine	Type I & II	Feb 06 - 08
CA-TF7	Canine	Type I & II	Mar 20 - 21
NE-TF1	Canine	Type I & II	Apr 16 - 18
VA-TF1	Canine	Type I & II	TBD May
CA-TF1	Canine	Type I & II	Jun 19 - 20
TN-TF1	Canine	Type I & II	Jul 09 - 11
MA-TF1	Canine	Type I & II	Aug 03 - 06
WA-TF1	Canine	Type I & II	Sept 17 - 19
AZ-TF1	Canine	Type I & II	Oct 10 - 12
VA-TF1	Canine	Type I & II	TBD Nov
CA-TF8	Canine	Type I & II	Dec 04 - 05